

Filed for intro on 04/05/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 157
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION To honor Ms. Drue Smith and to name the Press Room in the Legislative Plaza the "Drue Smith Press Suite."

WHEREAS, For a number of years, Ms. Drue H. Smith has adroitly covered the political scene on Capitol Hill in Nashville; an employee of GCA Newspaper Publishing Company, Inc., Ms. Smith is the Capitol Hill correspondent for radio and television stations, both state-wide and network, and for the *Green Hills*, the *Belle Meade*, the *West Meade*, the *West Side* and the *Nashville Today* newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Tommie Drue Henderson was born in Chattanooga to Jess and Sara Henderson, and was the only granddaughter of Andrew and Drue Muxen; and

WHEREAS, Young Miss Henderson was raised in the tradition of Southern Ladies and was a graduate of the Girls' Preparatory School of Chattanooga; she continued her education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She married the late Roy Blaney Smith and became the mother of Drucilla Smith Fuller; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Smith began her career in journalism in Chattanooga as the Society Editor for both daily newspapers, the *Chattanooga Times* and the *Chattanooga Free Press*; she became known to many Tennesseans as an interviewer for numerous radio stations, including the Tennessee Radio Network, and for WDEF-TV Chattanooga, where she interviewed scores of famous people, including President John F. Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, When she arrived in Nashville, Drue earned renown as a pioneer for women in her profession and in other areas; she was the first female admitted to the Society of Professional Journalists, and the first woman to occupy the office of Chair of the Capitol Hill Press Corps; she conducted a personal sit-in protest at a Nashville restaurant, the Gerst Haus, to allow unescorted women to eat at the counter; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith earned the respect and affection of Tennessee political figures of every ideological stripe; she was named "Reporter Laureate" and made the "133rd Member of the General Assembly" by State legislators in 1992, and earlier, then Adjutant General Joe Henry, later Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, made her an Honorary member of the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Drue's many honors and awards include being named Broadcaster of the Year by the American Women in Radio and Television, being appointed to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service by President Kennedy, being named an Honorary Member of the Tennessee Broadcasters Association, and being the Guest of Honor at the Governor's residence in a special reception hosted by Governor Don Sundquist and former Governors Ned McWherter, Lamar Alexander, and Winfield Dunn; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith is famed for her portrayals of political figures (and herself) at the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' annual Gridiron Show and has been honored by having a scholarship for young journalists named the "Drue Smith Scholarship"; and

WHEREAS, she is also justly famous for her wardrobe, which may be described as "unconventional". Some of her ensembles have been dependent upon a portable power source when properly modeled; and

WHEREAS, Although clearly never a slave to conformity, Drue is a true Southern Lady and takes seriously her civic and altruistic responsibilities; she has been a spokeswoman and the State Chairman for the American Heart Association's Heart Sunday, was the recipient of a nationally reported \$14,000 bid at the Bachelor Bid to benefit Cystic Fibrosis, and is a co-founder of the Swine Ball, to name only a few charitable activities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith has been honored by a varied assortment of organizations over the years, including being recognized as Woman of the Year by the Business and Professional Women, and as a political pioneer by the Woman's Suffrage Committee, and being accorded membership in the Tennessee Lobbyist Association on the Hill; she has been listed in the "*Who's Who in the South*" and is a member of the Belle Meade Plantation Chapter of the APTA, the Ceres Society, the Society of Professional Journalists, which she chaired for three years, and the University of Tennessee Alumni Association. Drue recently served as Honorary Chair for the Women's Political Caucus, received the Good Guy's Award in 1998 and Honorary Chair for Heroes for the Heart in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Her unparalleled professional journalism and her skillful use of slyly-shared -but never malicious – gossip, to elicit the release of even more and better information from her confidants, is legendary; her trustworthiness in protecting a confidence, however, assures her access wherever she pursues a story; and

WHEREAS, Drue Smith's undeniable charm disguises a keen intellect and insight which is never threatening; her colorful character has imbedded itself in the hearts of Tennessee's politicians, her professional journalism peers, and her thousands of readers and listeners; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that this legislative body take concrete action to recognize the life and achievements of Tennessee's Grand Lady of the Media; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Ms. Drue H. Smith for her unparalleled life of professional achievement and civic and charitable contributions, and applaud her irrepressible spirit and her meritorious example of living life to the fullest measure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Press Room in the Legislative Plaza is hereby designated as the "Drue Smith Press Suite."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in recognition of the above and the love that so many have and have had for her over the years, the Press Room in the Legislative Plaza is hereby designated as the "Drue Smith Press Suite."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Facility Administrator for the Legislative Complex is directed to erect suitable signs designating the Press Room in the Legislative Plaza as the "Drue Smith Press Suite".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Smith with this final two clauses omitted from such copy, and that an enrolled copy be transmitted to the Facility Administrator for the Legislative Complex.